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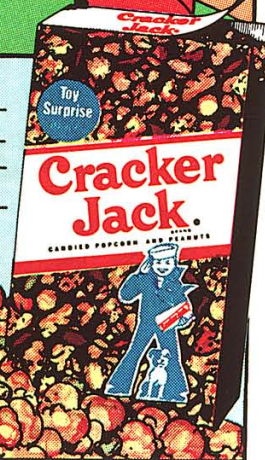
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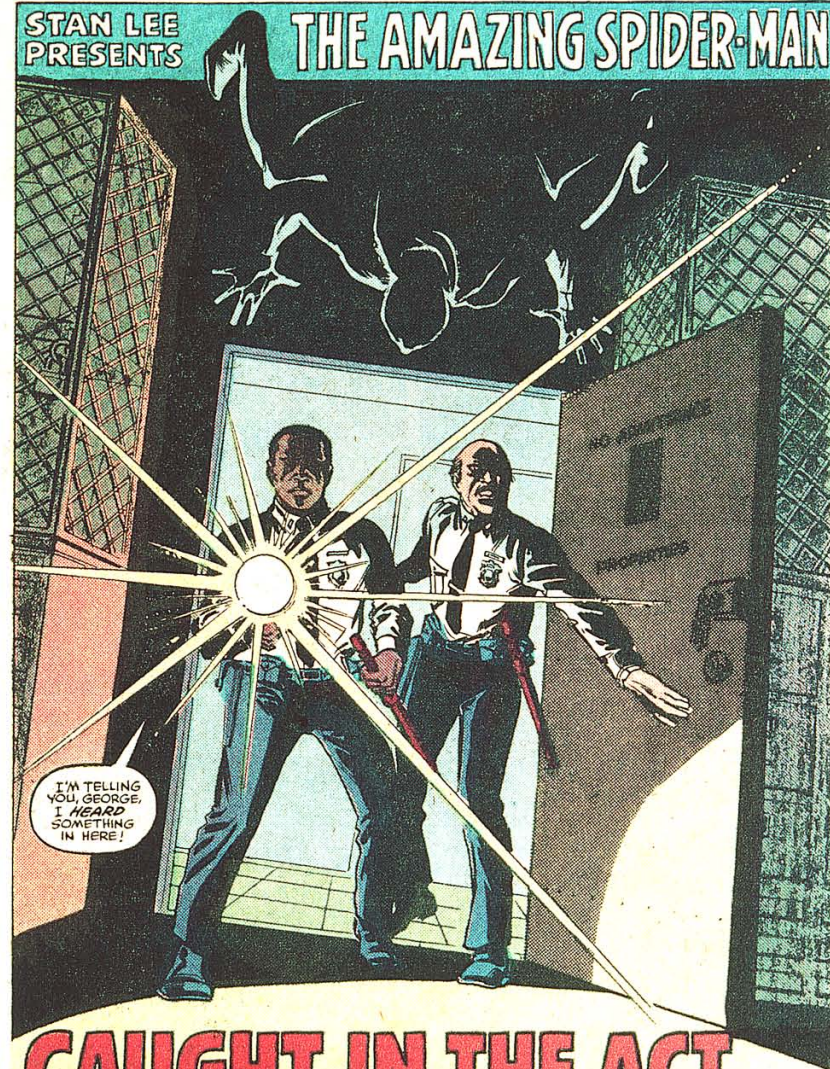
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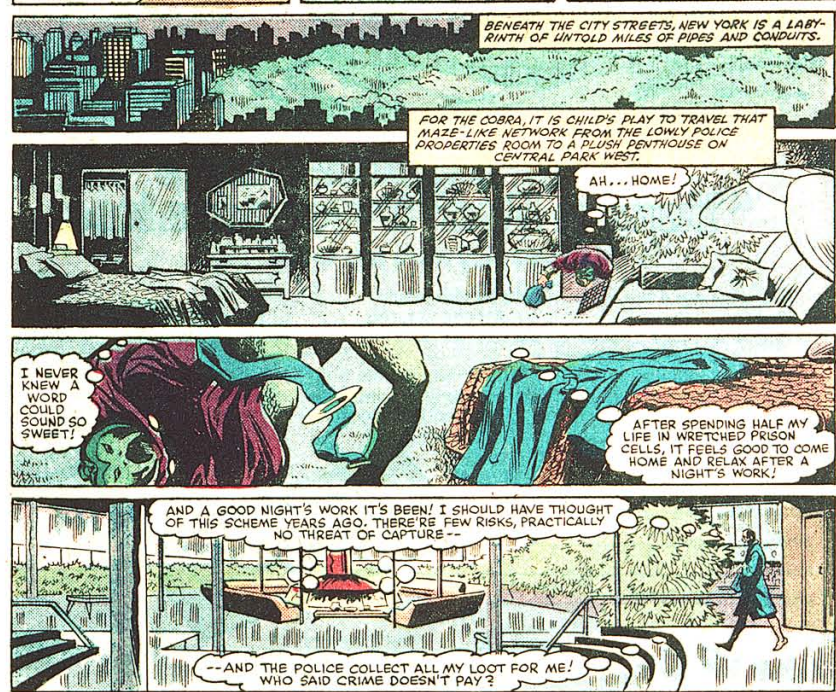
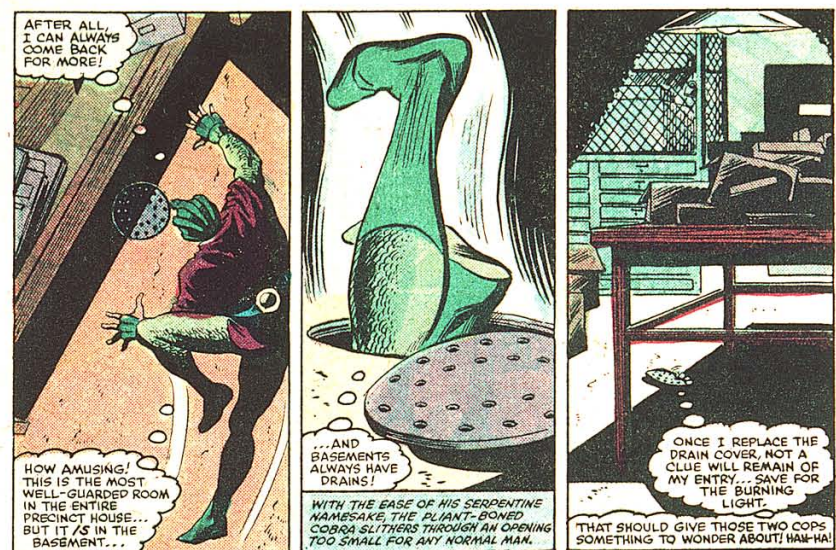
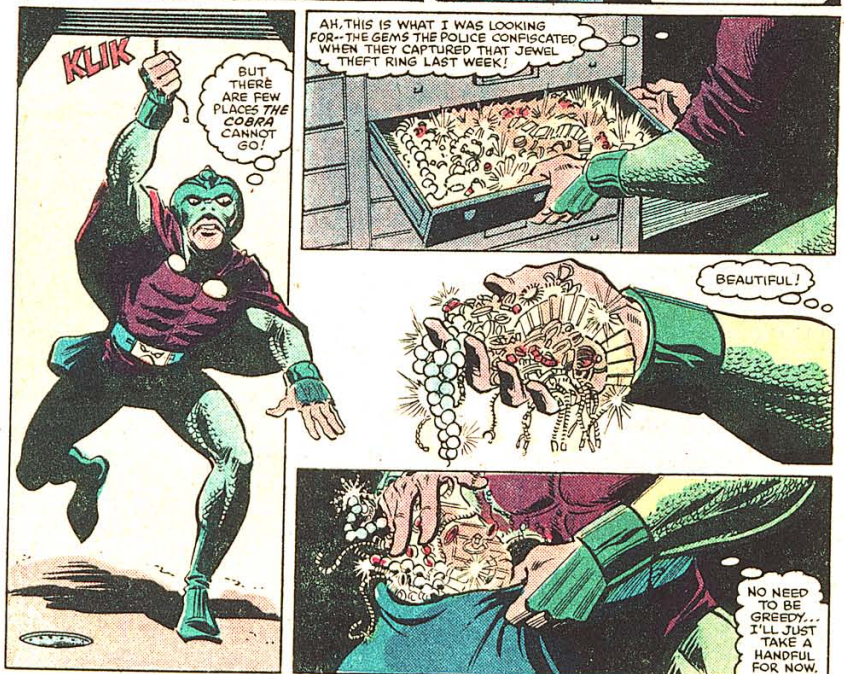
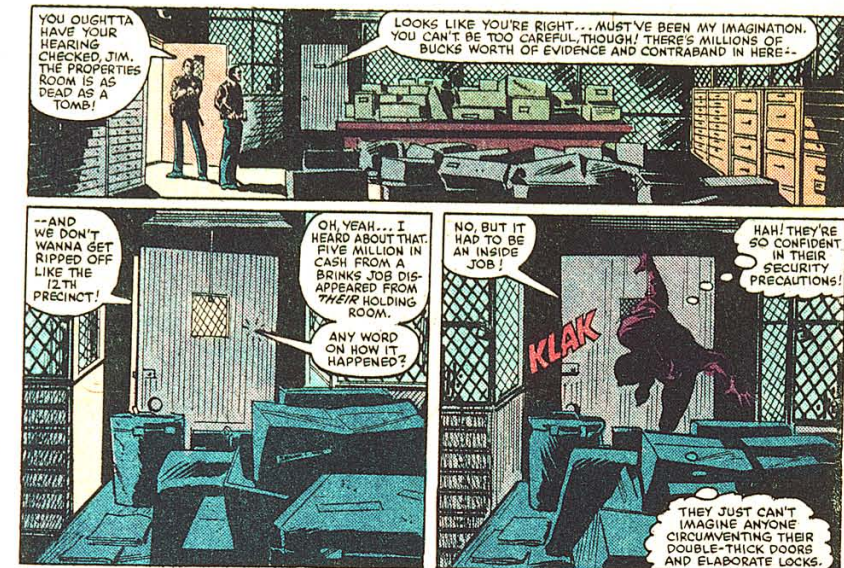
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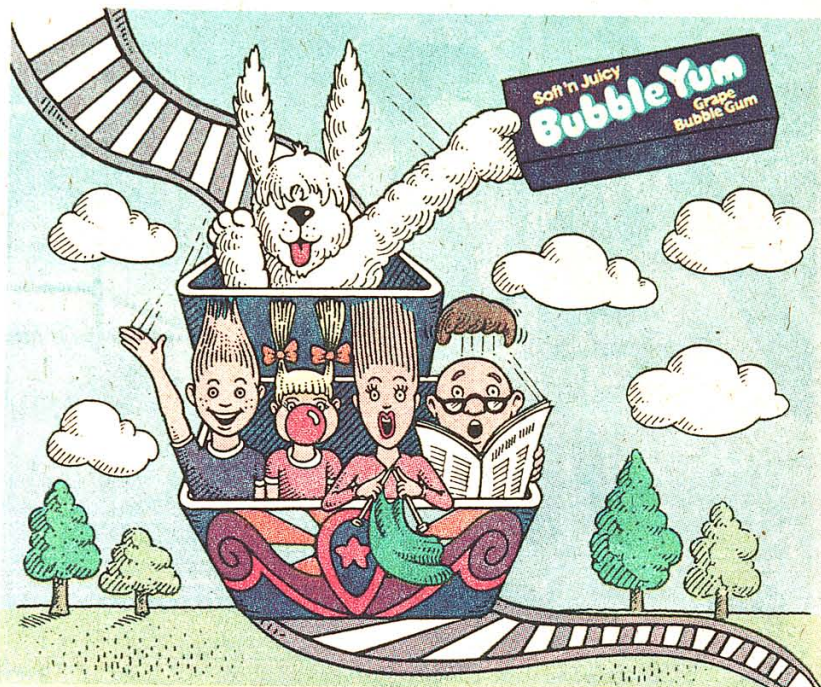


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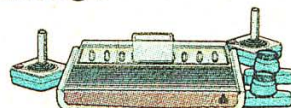
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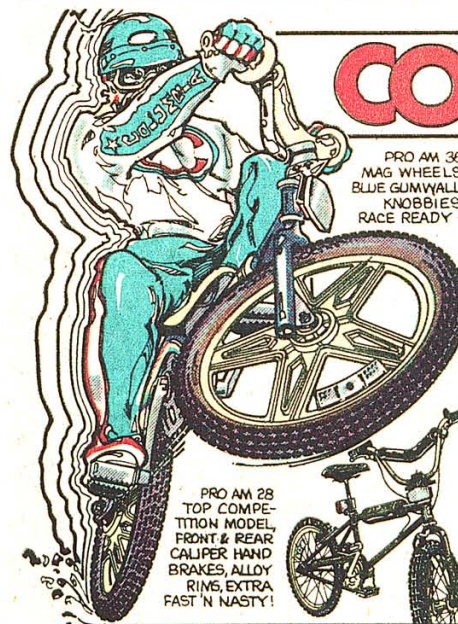
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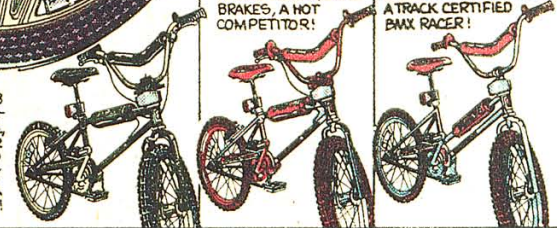
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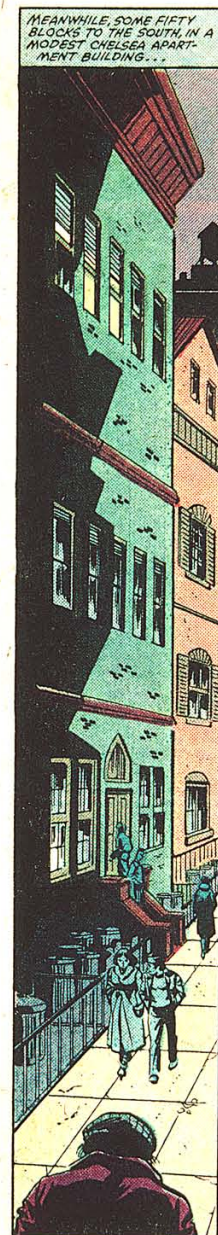
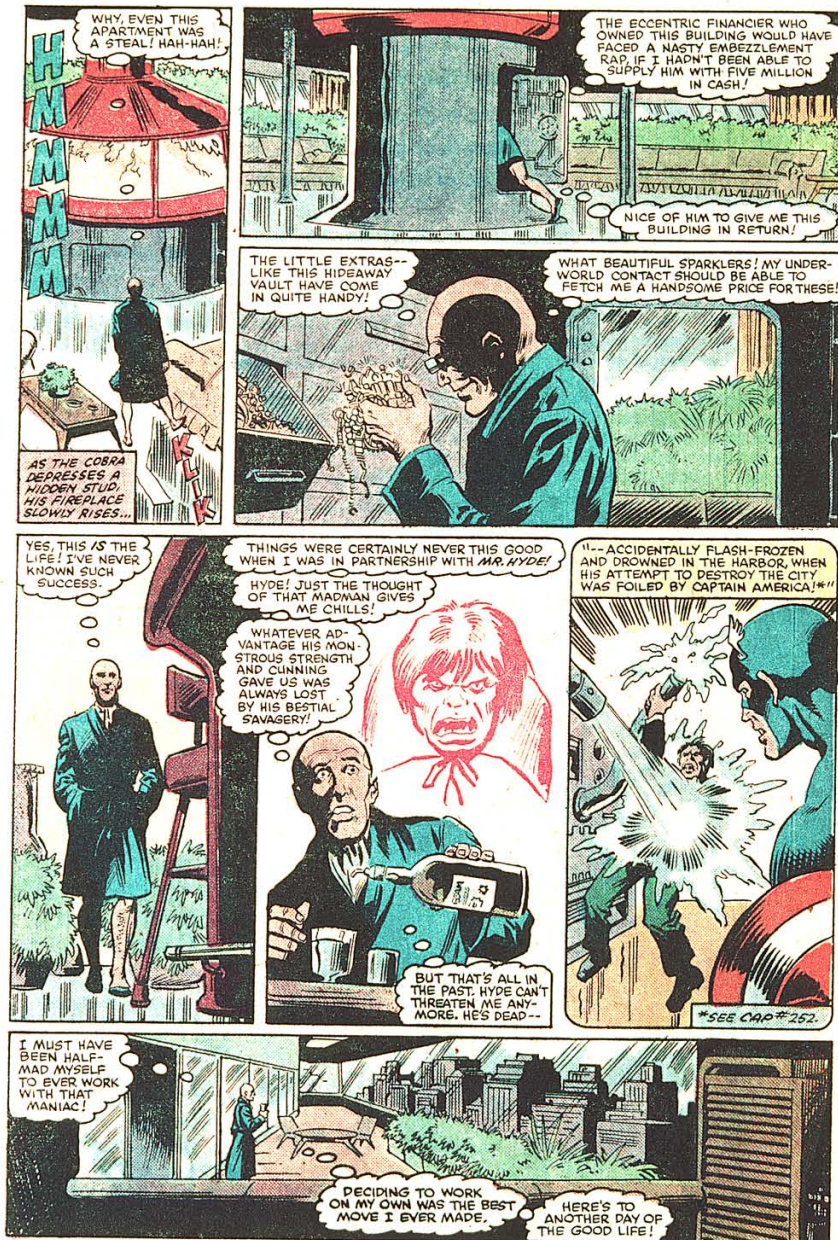
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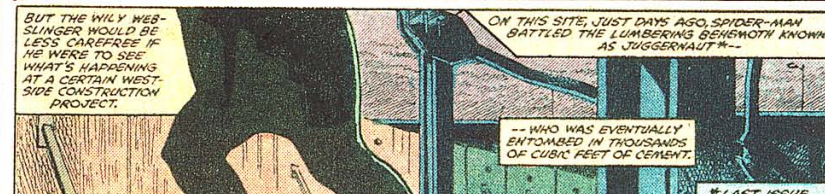
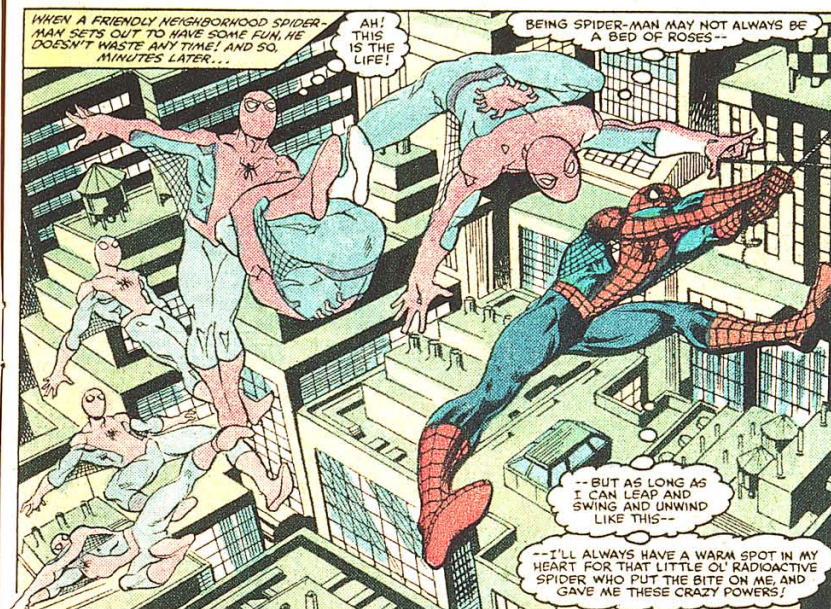
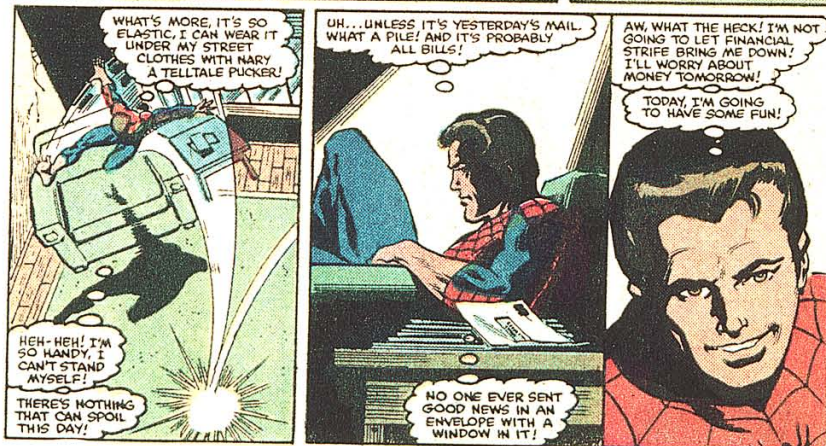
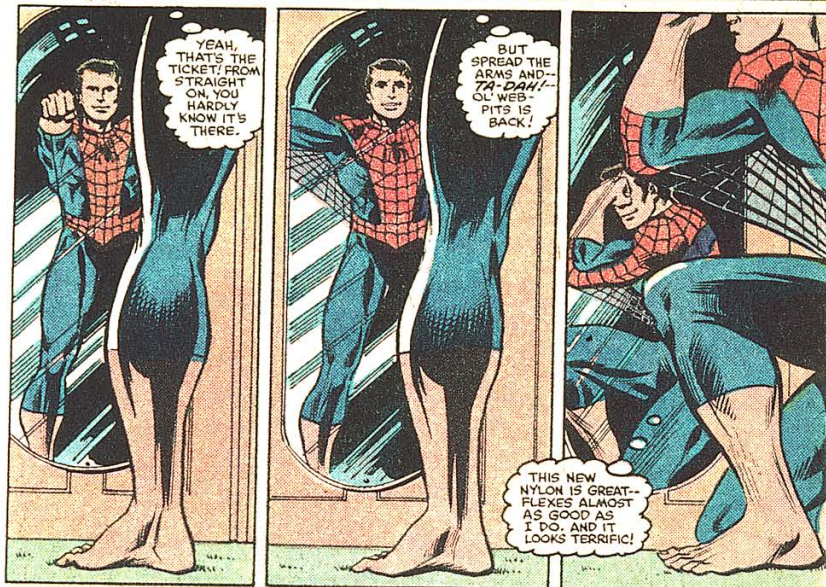
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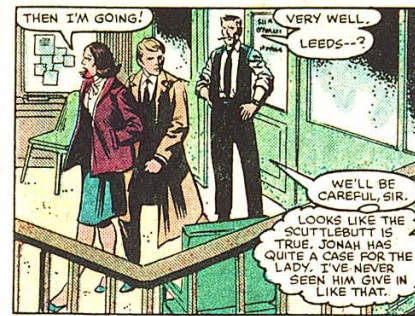
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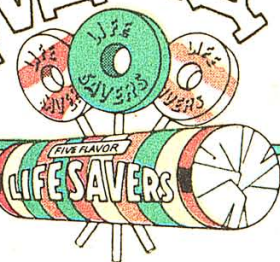
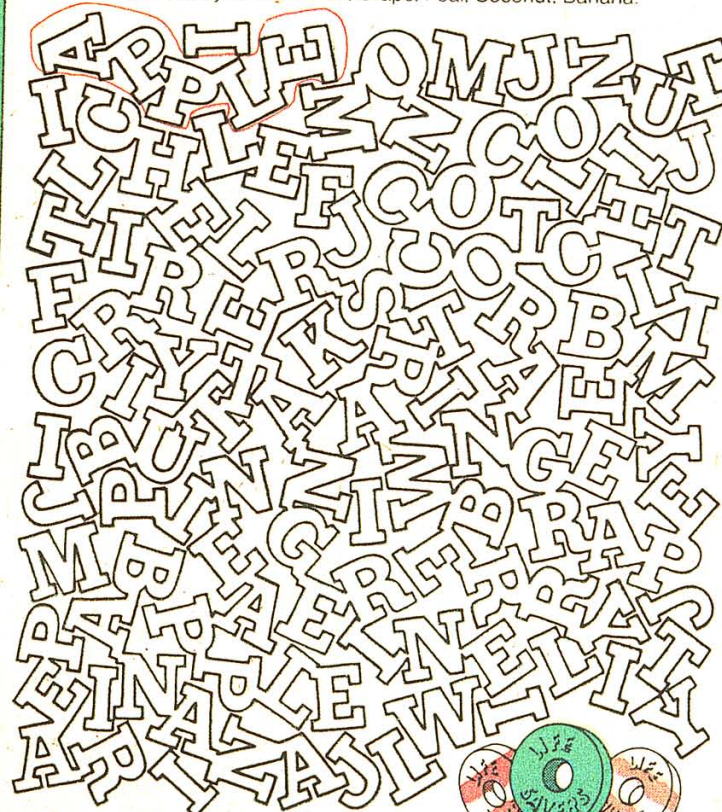
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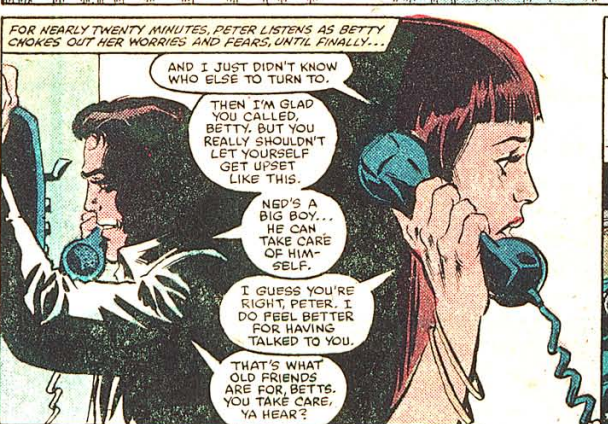
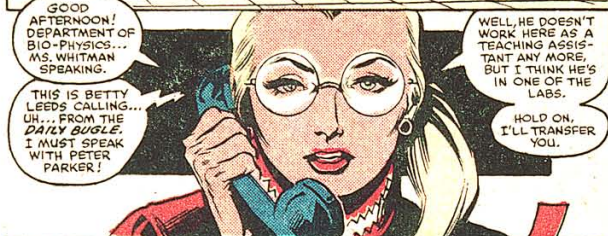
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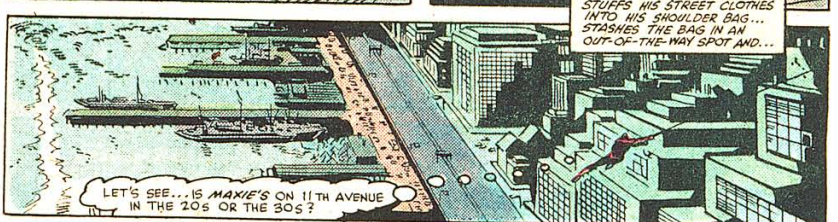
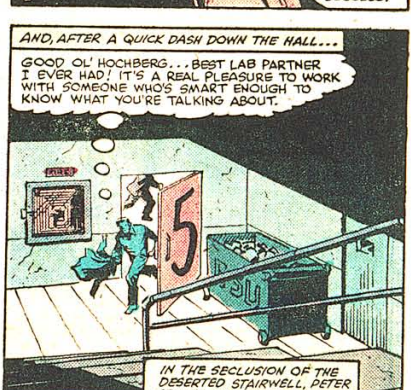
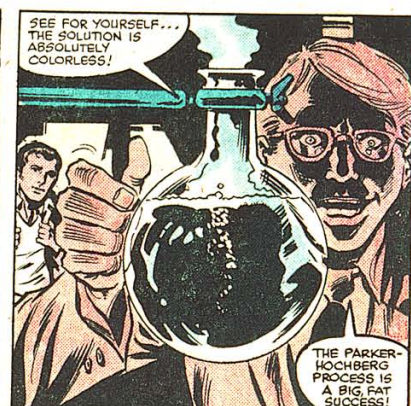
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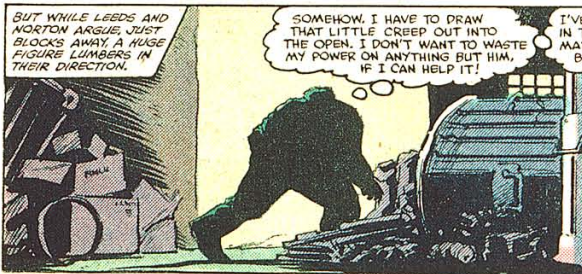
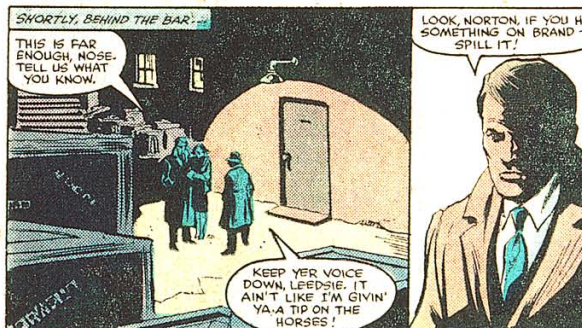
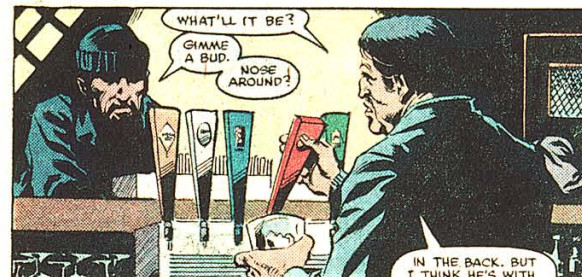
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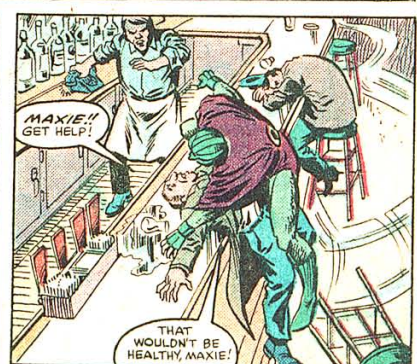
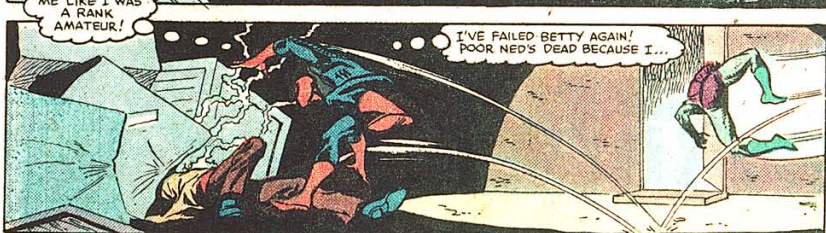
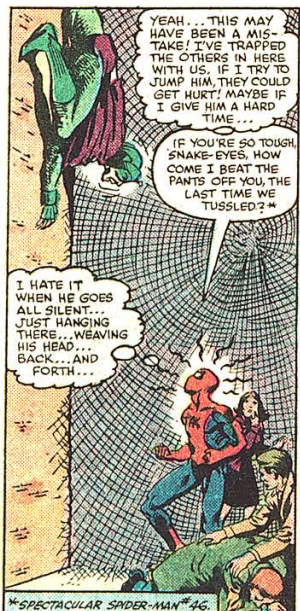
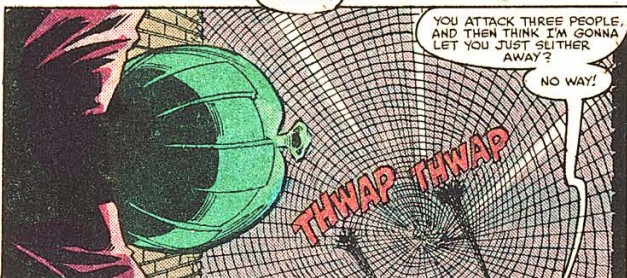
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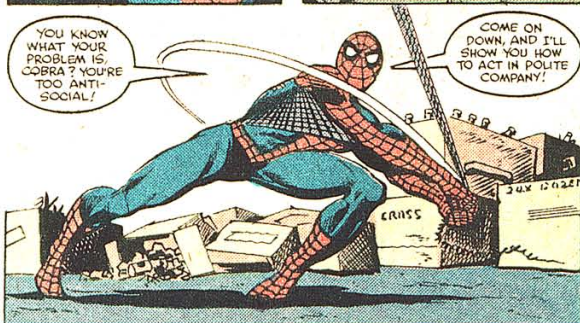
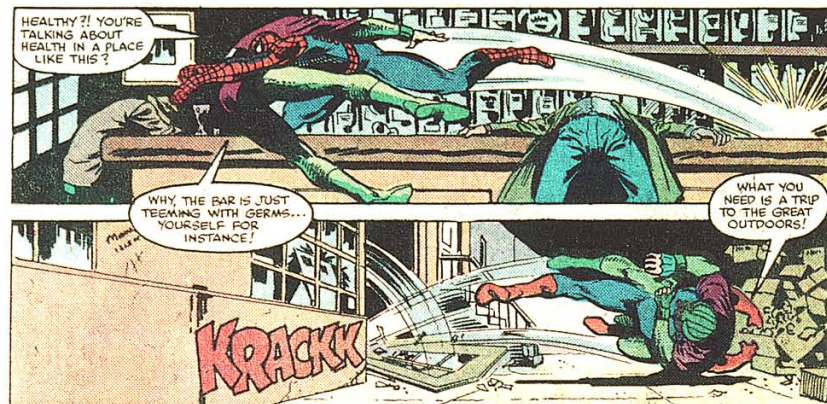
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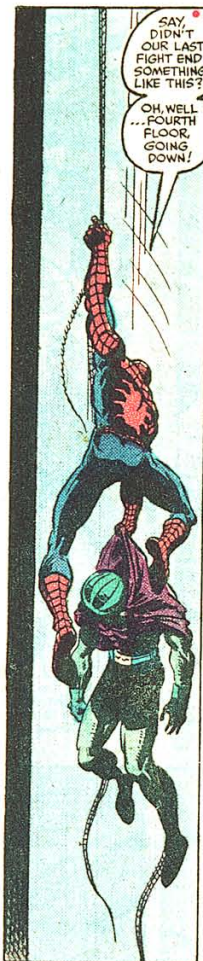
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OH, WELL... FOURTH FLOOR, GOING DOWN!

LOOK WHAT I FOUND, DADDY! CAN I KEEP HIM?

YES

HAH! DO YOU REALLY WANT TO?

NO, BUT THERE'S SOME NICE POLICEMEN A FEW BLOCKS AWAY, WHO SHOULD WELCOME HIM WITH OPEN ARMS!

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME! MY FRIEND THE NOSE HAS DONE A FAST FADE, BUT DR. MADISON AND I WILL BE GLAD TO FILE STATEMENTS!

FAIR ENOUGH, BUT I'D BETTER GET COBRA TO THE PRECINCT HOUSE WHILE HE'S STILL GROGGY!

DR. MADISON DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO SAY. I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE OF HER FAVORITE PEOPLE--

-- BUT MAYBE THIS LITTLE EPISODE WILL CONVINCE HER THAT I'M ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS!

NAH, THAT'S TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR.

STILL, IT'D BE A REAL GAS IF J. JONAH JAMESON'S LADY BECAME A SPIDER-BOOSTER!

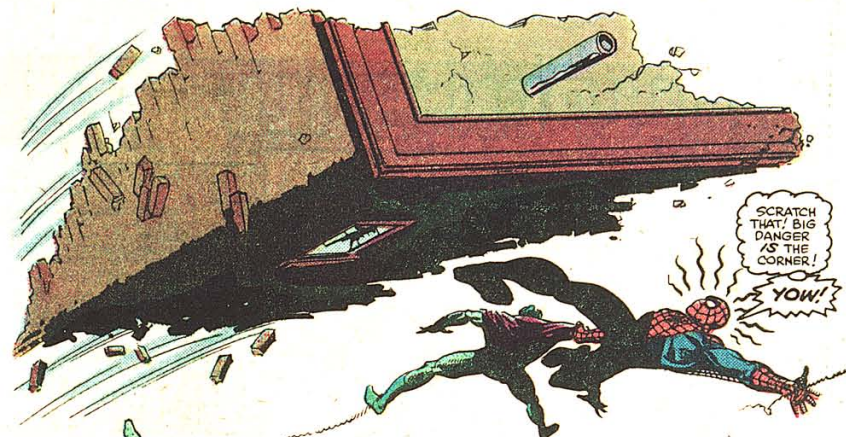
EH? WHERE?

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME TRYING TO GET AWAY AGAIN, COBRA!

I HAVE MY STICKY FINGERS LATCHED ON TIGHT! NOTHING'S PRYING YOU LOOSE THIS TIME!

BUT THEN...

WOW! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS GOING WILD! THERE MUST BE BIG DANGER RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

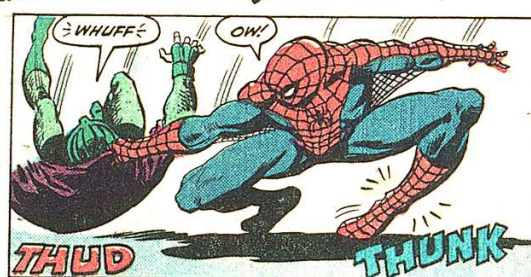


SCRATCH THAT! BIG DANGER AS THE CORNER!

YOW!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP!



THUD

THUNK

DARN IT! COBRA'S SQUIRMING THREW MY BALANCE OFF JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE ME TURN MY ANKLE!

SHUT UP COBRA! I'M TRYING TO SAVE OUR HIDES--

--SO STOP SQUIRMING!

YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THINGS DIFFICULT!

HURTS LIKE THE DICKENS, TOO! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WORSE-- THE PAIN IN MY LEG, OR THE BUZZ IN MY HEAD?



BUZZ IN MY HEAD?

I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE MET, SPIDER-MAN--

BULLPEN BULLETINS

INTRODUCING...

Ken and Ellie's darling boy, supreme high muckmuck of the mighty Marvel Comics creative crew, Editor of all he surveys, me. As usual, I'm here to give you the news and backstage blather.

WEDDINGS, BABIES, AND STUFF...

Boy, am I ever behind on these things! Please, hereby, be thou informed of the marriage of toponotch X-Men inker Bob Wiesek to beautiful Ann Karavakis, in November of 1980! Also, be thou informed of the marriage of ace colorist Bob Sharen to gorgeous Karen Jones in June of 1981. Also, be thou informed of the marriage of recently-promoted Editor Mark Greenwald to stunning Belinda Glass last May. May I add that all of the above-named ladies are as intelligent and accomplished in their own fields (which are computer analysis, teaching, and singing, respectively) as they are beautiful. Congratulations, folks!

I also give me great pleasure to announce the birth of Allen and Judy Migrom's first child, Rachel Gail Migrom this February fifth. Allen, as you know, is an artist as well as an outstanding Editor. The inside word is that he's got the kid inking backgrounds for him already. Congratulations, Al and Judy!

Last, and least, Bob Layton has been cloned. Congratulations, Bob.

MARVEL MOVIES!

As of April 26th, the Mighty Marvel Comics Group's new headquarters are at 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016! Please use our new address for all correspondence — subscriptions, complaints, raves, kickbacks, or just shooting the breeze. You should see the new offices! In fact, so should I! As I write this, it's only mid-February, so we haven't moved yet (though we will be by the time you read this) so I really don't know what our new space is like. I've seen the floor plan though, and I think we're going to like it. I'll tell you all about the new digs after we get settled.



G.I. JOE ADVERTISED ON TV!

Have you noticed the national television advertisements for our new G.I. JOE comic book? I believe that this is the first time in history that a comic book has been advertised on network TV! That alone makes our \$1.50 special 48 page first issue, printed on deluxe paper, a collectors item! Besides

that, I happen to think the concept is terrific! It's about a super-special anti-terrorist unit of the U.S. Army code-named "G.I. Joe," which uses the latest in computerized, laser-guided, high-tech weaponry and equipment. Imagine a gun which automatically aims wherever you look and destroys any target your eyes are focused on when you say "bang" into your helmet-mike. It's real — and you'll see it and other sophisticated gear in action in G.I. JOE. I promised you no hard sell in this column, so I'll refrain from giving you the "rush right out and buy lots" line. It's probably too late anyway. I can't help being excited about G.I. JOE and Marvel's first TV advertising for it, however. The ad was prepared by Marvel Productions, our own television production studio and run with the help and cooperation of the super-terrible people at Hasbro Toys. It seems to us that this could be the single biggest event in comics history, marking the beginning of a new era of wider exposure for Marvel Comics and the Marvel Universe. I wanted you to know about it.



ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

would you believe that I've been named as one of the six New Yorkers of the Year for 1981 by the Jaycees of New York? The honor was bestowed upon me for my contributions toward revitalizing the comics industry and helping Marvel Comics achieve a new pinnacle of success. Wow, I'm deeply honored... and I'm going to ask for a raise, because of this, of course! The others honored included Dave Winfield of the New York Yankees and Gary Jeter of the New York Giants. Not bad company, eh?

IN CLOSING...

I'd just like to say that I was only kidding about Bob Layton being a Billionaire. Actually, Bob Layton, who is an extremely talented artist and writer, and a true gentleman whom I am privileged to call a friend, was not cloned. He was Xeroxed.

Best,

Jim Shooter
Jim Shooter

THE HYPE BOX

Get a load of...

KA-ZAR #17 — BRUCE JONES and guest-penciler RON FRENZ have come up with the guaranteed most off-beat tale of the year as Ka-Zar, Shanna, Zabu, and private-eye Scott Brannigan (who?) engage in a multi-level adventure that fan-dome'll be talking about for months to come!

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #68 — You demanded it (and how!) — you got it (and how!) — the return of *Cloak and Dagger*!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #120 — Spider-Man teams up with the swashbuckling hero of the 1930's, *Dominic Fortune*! Only *Dominic* is now in his seventies! What's he been up to? Read it and find out!

WHAT IF #34 — The Marvel Universe will never be the same after this special all humor issue featuring a zillion short spots on ourselves by a multitude of contributors, including: MILLER, BYRNE, CLAREMONT, SIENKIEWICZ, and HEMBECK!

CRAZY #88 — This Crazy Super Special (containing 80% more material) features a lampoon of the Death of Phoenix, using the original EYRENE; AUSTIN artwork, with all-new dialogue by JIM OWSLEY. You're either gonna love it or hate it, but you've got to see it!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #90** — The Thing and Spider-Man!
- ☐ **TEAM AMERICA #3**
- ☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #45**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #2**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #18**
- ☐ **KA-ZAR #17**
- ☐ **THE DENNIS THE MENACE #10**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #185**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #231**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #272**
- ☐ **THOR #222**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #44**
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #71**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #22**
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #54**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #274**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #222**
- ☐ **CONAN #137**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #142** — Reprinting Amazing Spider-Man #6, by LEE and DITKO featuring Spider-Man's first encounter with... Dr. Doom!
- ☐ **X-MEN #160**
- ☐ **ROM #33**
- ☐ **POWER-MAN/IRON FIST #84**
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HERO CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS (Limited Series) #3** — The Final Chapter!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #245**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #120** — Spider-Man and Dominic Fortune! (See Hype Box)
- ☐ **IRON MAN #160**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #68** — The return of *Cloak and Dagger*!
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #110**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #62**
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #115**
- ☐ **WHAT IF #34** — Special all humor issue!
- MARVEL MAGAZINES**
- ☐ **CRAZY #88** — A Super Special featuring a special re-worded *Death of Phoenix*!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #78**
- ☐ **BOZZARRE ADVENTURES #32** — This issue's themes: "Gods! It's weird!"
- ☐ **#21: THE CONAN MOVIE** — Marvel's adaptation (by MICHAEL FLEISHER and JOHN BUSCEMA) of the movie of the year, plus articles on and color stills from the film.

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TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Friends,

If I was nervous about the return of the Black Cat in **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #226, I had cause. After all, in her first appearance, she had grace and style and wit to match Spider-Man himself. And what happened? She's off her rocker, you said.

Then I thought: No, it's a trick. Obviously, Felicia doesn't want to go to jail... so she pretended to be psycho, and Parker fell for it.

Then I thought: they'll never say so. After all, they don't care, do they?

I had so little faith. Okay, now I'm happy. She's back, her grace and style and wit are undimmed, and Parker's visit to the laundromat looked like the story of my life. Things are looking up. There is hope on the horizon.

I have a few reservations. The panel where B.C. landed on Spider-Man's back disturbed me. The theme that women with powers can't be as competent as men offends me. Are you afraid that she would upstage Spider-Man?

Okay, I'll cool it with the complaints. The Black Cat looks good, and I for one would like to see more of her.

The fourth page was a classic. Good stuff, indeed.

Elizabeth Holden
120 Lewis Street, Apt. 2
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K2P 0S7

Liz, Liz, Liz! If we didn't care, we wouldn't be in this crazy business!

And we're afraid that you misconstrued Spider-Man's little sacrifice play at the party. He let the Black Cat slam into him to discourage her from wanting to become his partner. Like the man said, he works alone. We never meant to imply that B.C. wasn't competent. Obviously, nothing could be further from the truth.

But we are glad you enjoyed the story. You certainly weren't alone!

Dear Webblings,

All right! **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #226 was the best Spider-tale that I have read in a long time! What can I say, except that it was marvelous... from the eerie cover, all the way to page 22.

I'm thrilled to see that John Romita Jr. is really getting into action on the art. Sure, he did an awesome job on **IRON MAN**, but his **SPIDER-MAN** is just so great!

Roger, you turned out a masterful script as usual. I liked the way you tied last issue's Foolkiller storyline in with this one. I must also thank you for bringing back Captain Jean DeWolff, who had not been seen for quite a while. The Black Cat is going straight? Well, I'll be Jameson's uncle (I just can't see it as a lasting relationship, though).

Tom, I must salute you for doing something that no other Editor has ever done: namely, linking all of Spider-Man's mags together. At last, we're beginning to find out just when some of his **MARVEL TEAM-UP** adventures take place. Keep up the good work. And please, involve Peter Parker a little more with the *Daily Bugle*, okay?

What do you have planned for issue #231? After all, that issue will mark twenty

years since Spider-Man first appeared in **AMAZING FANTASY** #15. Will you give it a king-size format like **FANTASTIC FOUR** #236?

Thank you for a great 1981. I'm looking forward to 1982 with great expectations. Happy New Year!

Andrew Krepela
6102 138th Street SE
Everett, WA 98204

Actually, Andy, we're holding the larger format in reserve for Spider-Man's twenty-fifth anniversary! We're celebrating the twentieth year by trying to make every issue special in its own right... and by bringing back the classic original **SPIDER-MAN** stories in **MARVEL TALES**.

But, since you brought it up, we have an important question to put to everyone reading these words: This issue, bearing an August, 1982 cover-date, marks the twentieth anniversary of this magazine, the **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**, won't occur until issue #238, cover-dated March, 1983! When the 25-year mark swings around, which anniversary should we celebrate... that of the magazine? Or that of ol' Spidey himself? Or both? We'll leave it up to you!

Dear Tom,

On page three of "But the Cat Came Back..." I thought to myself, "Boy, have these guys ever blown it now!" Here's an indication that the Black Cat was only taking her obsessive infatuation with Spider-Man in order to get lenient treatment. I was greatly disappointed, since she was much more impressive to me as a kooky admirer of Spider-Man, than as just a scheming, two-faced enemy.

Of course, as the story went on, B.C. put some real moves on Spider-Man in order to convince him that she wants to go straight, and all because of her love for him. Whether she is sincere or not is still up in the air.

Well, I think it's great that you've cooked up some suspense from the situation. I only hope that when the smoke clears, it will end up that she really does love Spider-Man... and is still a criminal. To have a criminal who's in love with a super hero would be a fine hook on which to hang some plot threads in the future. And, as Spider-Man is apparently drawn to her as well, we could see some classic, "I love her/him, even though I know it can never work" stories. We are all, oftentimes, the captives of our emotions.

So don't turn the Black Cat into just another villain with an unusual *modus operandi*. Let it be a case of "outlaw love".

T. M. Maple
(No street address given)
Toronto, Ontario

"Outlaw love"? Hey, wouldn't that make a wild comics title?

But seriously, T.M., it looks like you've been reading our minds again, you rascally ol' Spiderphile, you!

Dear Tom,

I loved **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #226.

Or rather, I should say that I loved the Black Cat. I hope you bring her back frequently. Page four, panel five had me rolling in laughter for an hour. In fact, I still chuckle when I look at it.

Isn't it the end of November in New York? Shouldn't there be a little snow on the ground?

Glad you gave us a nice ending to lift our spirits.

David Lipson
5432 South Ingleside
Chicago, IL 60615

Actually, winters in New York tend to be a bit milder than the ones you experience in the Windy City, Dave. (Though we'd probably all like to forget the past winter, right?) But then, we never said that **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #226 took place in November, now did we?

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #226 was a very good story indeed. And I think the most intriguing element was Ms. Felicia Hardy. I'm generally not too keen on female characters in comics, but the Black Cat is something else.

"But the Cat Came Back..." was an excellent return. I have to admit that I'd fallen for the mental instability bit. The fact that she pulled that stunt just to avoid prison shows that she is even craftier than Spider-Man.

I hope you bring Felicia back... not in a book of her own, just in an occasional appearance, every five or six issues.

I'd like to see more of Captain Jean DeWolff, too. I see her relation to Spider-Man in much the way Nick Fury relates to Captain America.

On the whole, **SPIDER-MAN** looks to be in great shape. Keep up the good work!

Dave Levy
RD #3, 1140 Lawrence Avenue
Toms River, NJ 09757

Not to worry, Dave. You haven't seen the last of the Black Cat... not by a long shot!

NEXT ISSUE: Join us as we launch the 21st year of Spider-Man with "Hyde in Plain Sight". Nuft said!



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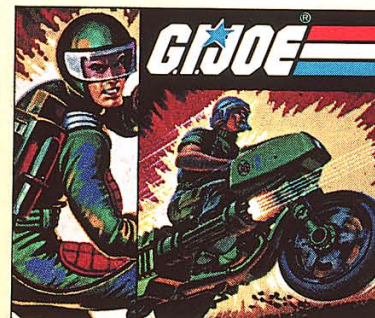
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